

DIARY 2 (PART C)

ADDENDUM

"Battle of Gettysburg"
[strategic analysis]

Microfilmed by the University of Virginia L

"The Battle of Perryburg"
on
1st - 2nd - 3rd July -
1863

All conceding the splendid strategy of Lee in baffling the enemy in their designs upon his Country's Capital; in transferring the theatre of war to their own soil, and, in again, with drawing his army, in the face of overwhelming numbers, and a crop & wide & rapid river, greatly swollen by the recent rains, and arriving safely around the walls of his own

Capital again; the question is often made - why, in consideration of all these facts, and the heroic & unrivalled prompt exhibition by our troops - why, we me, supposed to have the opportunity of selecting our own battle-ground, forced to attack the en-

glancing the enemy in the
designs upon his Country's
Capital: in transferring
the theatre of war to their
own soil, and, in again,
withdrawing his army, in
the face of even belching
cannons, and a crop a
mile & rapid river, greatly
swollen by the recent rains,
and arriving safely a-
round the necks of his own

Capital again; the ques-
tion is often made - why, in
consideration of all these
facts, and the heroic &
unwearied prompt ex-
hibited by our troops - why -
may we, suppose to have
the opportunity of select-
ing our own battle-ground
forced to attack the En-
emy on ground of his
own choosing - and why
our success was not more
decided? To these queries
I answer -

1st -

That Gen du Roure
anticipate a battle at
Gettysburg - or that any
fight at all would oc-
cur at the time - that he
relied upon his Cavalry

to keep him informed of
the Enemy's movements, so
that he could, in time -
collect his scattered col-
umns, which were march-
ing on different roads -
and, when concentrated -
or dispose them, as to
compel Meade to fight
him on terms of his
own choosing - that the
General failed to in-
form him, in time - of
the close proximity of
the Enemy. (See his offi-
cial report on the sub-
ject, in which, with his
characteristic delicacy,
he states this fact -
and that, consequently,
the opposing forces met

at a point, where, the
Enemy had availed
himself of the advantage
ground, and then he
was recapitulated to hurry
up his columns to the
support of those already
engaged (1st day) and
attack the Enemy where
he found him.

him on terms of his
own choosing - that the
Cavalry failed to in-
form him, in time, of
the close proximity of
the enemy. (See his offi-
cial report on the sub-
ject, in which, with his
characteristic delicacy,
he states this fact,
and that, consequently,
the opposing forces met

at a point, where, the
Enemy had already
himself of the vantage
ground, and had de-
vised no manipulation to bring
up his columns to the
support of those already
engaged (1st July) and
attack the Enemy where
he found them.

And -

That when me,
and other re-inforcements,
"Evell's and Longstreet's
Corps", arrived on the
battle-field in the eve-
ning (10th/11th) of the
1st July, the 1st and 6th
Corps of the enemy were

badly whipped, sustaining a loss of, at least, six thousand, cows, prisoners, and a heavy list of killed and wounded, that they had not, up to this time, planted a single piece of artillery in position (for they had not the time or chance to do it) nor fortified, in the least, the heights, upon which they were driven.

That Gen. Butler a. Early on this Evening, as soon as the shades of night compelled the combatants to cease, for awhile, their work of destruction & death, strongly advocated, in

a general council of War, an immediate and general advance & assault upon the heights; that had his proposition been adopted by the gallant old gray-haired Chief, the already dispirited Enemy would have been driven from his

in position (not the time or chance to do it) nor justified, in the least, the heights, upon which they were driven.

That Gen. Butler a. Early - on this evening, as soon as the shades of night commenced the combats to cease, for awhile, their words of destruction & death, strongly advocated, in

a general council of War, an immediate and general advance & assault upon the heights; that had his proposition been adopted by the gallant old gray-haired chieftain the already dispirited enemy would have been driven from his position (of course with some loss to us, but insignificant in comparison with what we subsequently sustained in our repeated charges and assaults) and we would have thereby obtained possession of the Key to the Enemy's

whole position, "Corn-
ing Hill", and secured
the entire aspect of the
game - that, unfortu-
nately for us, however,
Early (the old bull-dog)
was overruled, for the
alleged reason that,
the men were worn out
and needed rest -
that the foe, whipped
and dispirited as
he was, saw and took
advantage of the ground,
and as it proved after-
wards, a fatal mistake
that we had made -
occupied every se-
cond of the night in
falling trees, construct-
ing breastworks, block-

ing the roads - plant-
ing batteries, disposing
troops, &c - that Gen-
Meade during the
night of the 1st July -
as can be seen by
his official report
of the engagement,
received Seventy five
thousands 75,000 re-
inforcements - consis-
ting of all three arms
of the service, Cavalry,
&c -

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cond of the night in
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ing breastworks, block-

ing the roads - plant-
ing batteries, disposing
troops, &c. - that Gen-
Thiele, during the
night of the 1st July -
as can be seen by
his official report
of the engagement,
received Seventy five
thousand, 75,000. re-
inforcements - consis-
ting of all three arms
of the service, Cavalry,
Infantry and Ar-
tillery - and that, last-
ly, when the attack
was eventually made
on the evening of the
second of July, the
whole range of hills,
naturally, very strong,
and capable of easy

defence, was thoroughly
justified. From the
risk attending of the
heavily calibred - and
defended by numerous
numbers, as to be
impracticable to as-
sault.

3rd.

That our an-
tillery fire ^{which} opened
on the morning of the
3rd and continued,
without one moment's
cessation till the eve-
ning of the 3rd, was,
most probably, un-

precedented in the
annals of war. That
the slaughter of the En-
emy, crowded upon
the heights was terrific
and beyond all de-
scription, one hundred
and fifty guns play-
ing upon Cemetery Hill
alone. That it was true,
that the principal
part of his army

3rd.

That our ar-
rival of the ^{high} ~~the~~ opened
in the morning of the
3rd and continued,
without one moment's
cessation till the eve-
ning of the 3rd, was,
most probably, un-

precedented in the
annals of war. That
the slaughter of the En-
emy, crumbled upon
the heights was terrific
and beyond all de-
scription. one hundred
and sixty guns play-
ing upon Cemetery Hill
alone. that it was here,
that the principal
portion of his admitted
terrible mortality list
was made up - that
his own surgeons who
came into our lines,
by permission, to as-
sist in the care of
his wounded, repre-
sented to us that it
was one frightful
slaughter - that

it was universally be-
lieved by their own, as
well as our officers - that
could we have sustain-
ed this deadly and
murderous fire a short
time longer, the enemy
must have abandoned
his position. But such
a fire, necessarily re-
quiring a vast depen-
dence of our ammu-
nition, which was, al-
ready, nearly exhausted -
we were compelled to
economize our use of
it, until we could
receive more from our
distant base of sup-
plies. This was fa-
tal to us - and proved

our ruin. The cannon-
ade which was kept
up by both armies on
the 2nd & 3rd of July,
is, I believe, unequal-
led in the annals of
warfare. Judging from
the number of large
guns which we had
in our army, and
making a liberal allow-
ance for the increased

a fire, necessitating
requiring a vast depen-
dence of our commu-
nication, which was, al-
ready, nearly exhausted -
we were compelled to
economize our use of
it, until no com-
munication more from our
distant base of sup-
plies - This was fa-
tal to us - and proved

our ruin - The cannon-
ade which was kept
up by both armies on
the 2nd & 3rd of July,
is, I believe, unparal-
leled in the annals of
warfare - Judging from
the number of large
guns which we had
in our army, and
making a liberal allow-
ance for the increased
numbers of the foe, we
came to the conclusion
that, at least, five
hundred and sev-
enty five, large
guns were, at the
same time, vomiting
forth their contents
of fire and death -
By day the heavens

seemed "hung with black
and "draped with purple-
rue," and by night,
the sulphurous fire,
as it issued from the
mouths of the death-
dealing missiles, lit
up the surrounding air
with a lurid glow,
and cast a most
unearthly light upon
the scene of carnage
& death around -
And the very Earth
trembled - and quak-
ed - and rocked
to its very foundations,
as if the fist of an
angry and incensed
God rested upon it.

Such are the reflec-
tions of an impartial
if a participant in
the strife can be im-
partial, observer of
the campaign, from
its incipient stages
to its closing scenes,
on a point, which has
been, and will be, the

unearthly light upon
the scene of carnage
& death around -
And the very earth
trembled - and quaked
and cracked
to its very foundations,
as if the feet of an
angry and incensed
God rested upon it

Such are the reflec-
tions of an impartial
if a participant in
the strife can be im-
partial, observer of
the campaign. From
its incipient stages
& its closing scenes,
on a point, which has
been, and will be, the
subject of a great con-
tinuity of ruins -
and which will fur-
nish material to the
future historians of
both sections to ^{upon which} follow
widely divergent paths.
Let facts, which ad-
mit of no dispute
whatsoever, speak for
themselves

That General Fremont being
besieged in the outer
lines which defended
the Capital of his
own Country - became,
as if by magic, the
thunderer of shot of
his adversary's - Captured,
by the most marvellous
movement, the imper-
cant garrisons at "Win-
chester" and "Harper's-
+ Ferry", rescued the
status of the Potomac,
before the idea of in-
vasion was ever en-
tained by the En-
emy. Filled with
chagrin, the enemy,
whom he had cut-
tillid, and with

consternation and
alarm, for the safety
of their homes, the fa-
natical and delu-
sion people of the
North, who had, until
so long with pro-
spective delight the
promised "Full of
Richmond" - Reluc-
ed Virginia, at an

Count of Amiens at this
chance and "Harper's-
+ Emory", opposed the
wishes of the Polkians,
before the idea of in-
vasion was ever en-
tertained by the En-
emy. Filled with
chagrin, the enemy,
whom he had out-
riggered, and with

consternation and
alarm, for the safety
of their homes, the fa-
miliar and delu-
sive people of the
North, who had, until
so long with pro-
spective delight the
promised "Fall of
Richmond" - Retur-
ed Virginia, at an
opportune season, of
the heavy burden of
war - Subsisted his
Army, for two months,
in the enemy's country -
And on his return,
brought in his train,
immense quantities
of stores of all kinds
which he had taken

from the enemy - thought
that enemy in strong-
holds of his own se-
lection inflicted a
loss of, at least, five
thousand, 250,000,
men - (and many
put it at a figure
considerably higher)
with a loss to himself
of not more than one
third that number -
tiresomely retraced his
steps - Repeatedly of-
fended back to the
vain glorious of ad-
vance - crossed the
Potomac, & greatly
swollen by the late
rains as to be ab-

most impassable - in
the face of the enemy,
who had been too
badly crippled to
pursue, and who
was compelled to
seek safety in flight
in the indecisive
campaign of the fol-
lowing autumn -
These undisputed, &
indisputable facts,

with a loss of more than one
of not more than one
thousand that number
tremendously retreating his
slips - repeatedly of
fired back to the
vain glorious of
and re. crossed the
Potomac, & greatly
swollen by the late
rains as to be ab-

most impassable, in
the face of the enemy,
who had been too
badly crippled to
pursue, and who
was compelled to
seek safety in flight
in the indecisive
campaign of the fol-
lowing autumn -
These undisputed, &
indisputable facts,
amply suffice (with-
out calling to our
aid, other, and still
more overwhelming
proofs -) to place Robt
E. Lee in the first
rank of the world's
greatest chieftains -
and to crown the

gallant men who were
the executors of his
conceptions, with un-
dying and imperish-
able renown.

I will only say in
conclusion, and he-
fore I finally leave
this subject - that it
was only by the fortunate
concurrency of the

most unfortunate
circumstances on

that eventful fatal
day (1st of July 1863) that
Independence - that

great and precious
born of heaven to the

human race, was
snatched from our
grasp -